

March 28, 2002

N E W S

For Immediate Release

LOUISIANA PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS FOR 2002

As of March 1, 2002, Louisiana's farmers intended to plant less acreage to cotton, rice, sorghum, and sweet potatoes this year than last year. Corn, soybeans, and wheat acreages are expected to increase, according to Dave Frank, State Statistician for the Louisiana Agricultural Statistics Service.

These prospective planting intentions reflect the current economic and weather conditions as of March 1, 2002. Actual plantings could shift upward or downward based on conditions for the rest of the planting season, the uncertainty of the 2002 farm bill, and commodity prices. Planted acreage estimates will be updated on June 1 and released by NASS on June 28, 2002.

Corn planted acreage is expected to total 570,000, up from the 315,000 acres, or 81 percent above a year ago.

Cotton growers intended to plant 660,000 acres. This total is down 210,000 acres, or 24 percent below a year ago.

Rice planted acreage is expected to decrease to 520,000, which will bring acreage down 28,000 acres, or 5 percent below last year. Acres of long grain varieties are expected to total 515,000 acres, down 25,000 acres, or 5 percent below last year. Growers intended to plant 5,000 acres of medium grain varieties, down 3,000 acres, or 38 percent from 2001.

Grain sorghum intentions indicate acreage will total 220,000, down 10,000 acres, or 4 percent below a year ago.

Soybean planted acreage is expected to increase 10,000 acres, or 2 percent from last year's acreage, to 650,000 acres.

Sweet potato planted acreage, at 23,000, is down 1,000 acres, or 4 percent from a year ago.

Winter wheat seeded last fall is estimated at 180,000 acres, up 5,000 acres from last year.

All hay harvested acres, at 420,000, is down 7 percent from 2001.

Sugarcane acreage for harvest will not be estimated until June 28, 2002.

MARCH 1, 2002 - PLANTING INTENTIONS

CROP	LOUISIANA			UNITED STATES		
	2001	2002	% CHANGE	2001	2002	% CHANGE
	-----Thousand Acres-----			-----Thousand Acres-----		
Corn	315	570	+81	75,752	79,047	+4
All Cotton	870	660	-24	15,788	14,771	-6
Rice	548	520	-5	3,335	3,323	---
Sorghum	230	220	-4	10,252	9,015	-12
Soybeans	640	650	+2	74,105	72,966	-2
Sweet Potatoes	24	23	-4	97.9	95.6	-2
All Wheat	175	180	+3	59,617	59,004	-1
Hay 1/	450	420	-7	63,511	63,743	---

1/Harvested intentions.

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